

CT-197

DOWELL FARM, Solomons Island Road North (MD 2)

Sunderland

early 19th century and c. 1900

Private

This farm comprises a three-part farmhouse, tenant house, pig pen, chicken house, corn house, and three tobacco barns. All but the farmhouse and tenant house appear to date from the 20th century.

The oldest structure on this property appears to be the west section of the farmhouse. This one-story, one-room building features 9/6 sash and an eight-panel door. A c. 1900 two-story frame addition was built at the east end of this cottage. A porch runs along the east side of the addition and a one-story kitchen is attached to its north end.

(Capsule)

Dowell, Route 2

The historical significance of this farm is the obvious value it has as an active document of the process which has been the lifestyle of most Calvert Countians for over three hundred years. The land, along with the buildings which are of various ages and use has for many years supported human existence through the raising of animals and crops.

The architectural significance of the house is that in its west wing and east additions one can see the differences which took place between the beginning and end of the 19th Century in both construction methods and concepts of style. These would include the progression from hewn post-and-beam construction to balloon framing with machine dressed lumber as well as the difference between the relative simplicity and compactness of vernacular Greek Revival and the ornateness of Victorian design.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CT-197

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dowell, Route 2

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Sunderland

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dowell

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Sunderland

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CT-197

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The oldest portion of this house is the rear (W) portion, and no one knows exactly when it was built. The (E) newest portion was built by Mr. Leroy Dowell's grandfather when his father was a boy. Family tradition holds that "Grandma" mixed the plaster for the builder while her husband plowed the fields.

The front or north wing is a house in itself that was built onto the south end of the old cabin. It is three bays wide, two deep, two stories high and has a gable-end roof. The house is entered by a central door, and there is a full porch on the east facade. This porch is supported by turned posts with scrollwork decoration. Also typical of the Victorian period. A one story kitchen with its own porch is attached to the north end of the "new" house. Also typical of the Victorian period are the 2/2 windows. (4/4 on the ends).

As mentioned, this portion of the house is actually an addition to the little cabin on the west side. It appears to have been one room down, one up, and is constructed of hand hewn timber joined by mortise-and-tenon with trunnels.

Realizing the possibility of alterations, there are two large sash windows in the north facade with 9/6 bubbled panes. An eight panelled door and transom provide an entrance on the south side. A porch and exterior closet cover the first floor of this side. The overlap clapboards on this side were measured and they averaged 7" in width and C. 1" in thickness.

Two pedimented dormers on the south side provide light for the upper story along with a small window on the west end.

An early construction date for the west wing is further suggested by the evidence of a no longer existing exterior chimney on the west end. In addition to an obvious break in the siding one can see a replacement section in the hewn sills at this point.

There are other buildings on the farm which appear to have various dates. These would include a well house off of the northeast corner of the house which measures 2'7" wide, 2'11" deep and 7' high. It is capped by a gable-end roof with deep eaves and is of a type quite common in the area. There is a 9' x 8' pig pen, a chicken house, corn house, tenant house and three tobacco barns. Most of these buildings appear to be of 20th Century construction although the abandoned tenant house is said to be the result of an addition having been made to a cabin. One family member thinks that the oldest portion of the tenant house was once part of the main house.

One of the barns is located some distance north of the house, (on the other side of the branch and up on the hill). Unused auger holes, non-functional cut-nails etc. indicate alterations or re-use of materials. Nevertheless the barn is a two part tobacco house divided by three transverse sills. It measures 20'6" x 32', an uncommon size. It contains both hewn and sawed lumber, nails and trunnels and many of the hewn braces are replaced by circular sawn pieces.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historical significance of this farm is the obvious value it has as an active document of the process which has been the lifestyle of most Calvert Countians for over three hundred years. The land, along with the buildings which are of various ages and use has for many years supported human existence through the raising of animals and crops.

The architectural significance of the house is that in its west wing and east additions one can see the differences which took place between the beginning and end of the 19th Century in both construction methods and concepts of style. These would include the progression from hewn post-and-beam construction to balloon framing with machine dressed lumber as well as the difference between the relative simplicity and compactness of vernacular Greek Revival and the ornateness of Victorian design.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



CT-197
Dovell Farm
N.

W. Nield
Summer 76



CT-197
Dawell Farm
Tool & TRACTOR
SHEDS
E.

W. NIELD
SUM 76